

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 CEQ-01  
IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 INT-05 SMI-01  
DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 AF-10 NEA-10 /089 W  
-----132224Z 054701 /64

P R 131910Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0925

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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CANBERRA FOR US DEL IWC; MEXICO FOR FISHATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, IWC-1, AR, XV

SUBJECT: MAJOR ISSUES AT 29TH MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WAHLING  
COMMISSION

REF: STATE 127607

1. S&T COUNSELOR HAS DISCUSSED ISSUES CONTAINED REFTEL AND LEFT  
AIDE MEMOIRE (ENGLISH AND SPANISH) WITH (A) CAPTAIN (RE) ROBERTO  
MANUEL MARTINEZ ABAL, DIRECTOR OF ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE  
(IAA); (B) COUNSELOR SANGUINETTI, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
DEPT, FOREIGN MINISTRY; (C) CAPTAIN (RE) HUMBERTO F. GHERSU,  
UNDERSECRETARY OF FISHING, MARITIME INTERESTS SECRETARIAT.

2. GHERSU TELLS US THAT ARGENTINA WILL BE REPRESENTED AT CANBERRA  
BY DR. ALDO P. TOMO, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF BIOLOGY DEPT. AT IAA.  
BECAUSE TOMO HAS BEEN IN ENGLAND ATTENDING SCAR MEETING ON  
BIOMASS, WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK TO HIM DIRECTLY,  
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BUT ARE HOPEFUL THAT U.S. POSITION WILL BE PASSED TO HIM.

3. IN GENERAL, ARGENTINA IS NOT A WHALE-TAKING COUNTRY  
AND PARTICIPATES IN IWC, AS WE DO, PRIMARILY TO PROMOTE  
CONSERVATION. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING UNDERSECRETARIAT  
IS NEW AND HAS TAKEN LESS INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS THAN IAA,  
HENCE IAA SERVES AS PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT TO GHERSU ON CONSERVATION

MATTERS INVOLVING, AS THIS DOES, THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

4. FROM OUR SOUNDINGS, WE WOULD SAY THAT ARGENTINA TENDS TO LOOK WITH SOME FAVOR ON ALL OF THE U.S. INITIATIVES REPORTED REFTEL. THE SCIENTIFIC PERMITS ISSUE WILL PROBABLY GAIN ARGENTINE SUPPORT. (ARGENTINA ASPIRES TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, SOMETHING WE MAY WISH TO SUPPORT.)

5. ARGENTINA APPEARS TO LEAN TOWARD SUPPORTING OUR CALL FOR A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

6. ARGENTINES SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER OUR CALL FOR BOYCOTT ON WHALE PRODUCTS FROM IWC NON-MEMBER STATES. THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT TOO CLEAR WHICH COUNTRIES THIS WOULD INVOLVE. CONTINUED EFFORTS AT CANBERRA MIGHT BRING THEM ALONG, HOWEVER, WE WOULD JUDGE.

7. OUR CALL FOR OPEN MEETINGS ENCOUNTERED NO RPT NO PARTICULAR ADVERSE CRITICISM ON ANY OF THE THREE DEMARCHES. WE BELIEVE ARGENTINA CAN SUPPORT US ON THIS, AS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF NMP.

8. MARTINEZ ABAL NOTED ARGENTINA'S GREAT INTEREST IN KRILL, AND INDICATED THAT IT WAS PERHAPS IN BEST POSITION TO BEGIN HARVESTING KRILL. ARGENTINA, HOWEVER, WAS INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION OF ENTIRE ANTARCTIC ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM, UPON WHICH KRILL WAS FUNDAMENTAL FOOD SOURCE FOR WHALES, PLUS OTHER SPECIES (SEALS, BIRDS, FISH, ETC.). ARGENTINA OPPOSES INDISCRIMINATE EXPLOITATION OF KRILL AS WELL AS WHALES. IN TIME, IF WHALE STOCKS BECOME SUFFICIENTLY REPLENISHED, THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN KRILL POPULATION. ARGENTINA THEREFORE IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF MORE RESEARCH ON ANTARCTIC ECOLOGY, AND OF THE BIOMASS PROGRAP IN PARTICULAR.

9. SINCE KRILL CAN PERHAPS BE BEST CAPTURED NORTH OF 60 DEGREES SOUTH (THE ANTARCTIC TREATY BOUNDARY), THE TIME MAY BE APPROACHING, MARTINEZ ABAL REASONS, TO TAKE ACTION ON KRILL CONSERVATION AS WELL, PERHAPS IN IWC OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATION. IN ANY EVENT, KRILL AND WHALES ARE DEFINITELY RELATED IN AN IMPORTANT WAY. GHERSU IS COGNIZANT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP TOO, BUT FEELS THAT IT WILL TAKE SO LONG FOR WHALE STOCKS TO RE-ACHIEVE THEIR EARLY 1900'S LEVELS THAT THIS PROBLEM IS NOT OF GREAT URGENCY.

10. SANGUINETTI WAS FAIRLY NON-COMMITAL. WHEN WE MENTIONED U.S. WHALING PROHIBITION IN OUR FISHING ZONE (200 MILES), HE BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF MALVINAS (FALKLANDS) AS SOMETHING

ARGENTINE MIGHT WISH TO RAISE IN CONTEXT OF IWC.

11. TOMO WILL BE TRAVELLING TO CANBERRA AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FISHING UNDERSECRETARIAT, SO GHERSU WILL HAVE MOST TO SAY IN INSTRUCTING HIM. FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL ALSO HAVE A VOICE, HOWEVER, AND TOMO WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HIS OWN STUDIES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN ECOLOGY.

12. COMMENT: TOMO IS WELL KNOWN TO NSG POLAR PROGRAMS PERSONNEL AND TO A NUMBER OF U.S. ANTARCTIC SCIENTISTS. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE IS NOT RPT NOT EASY TO DEAL WITH, NOR VERY PRO-AMERICAN IN HIS OUTLOOK. NONETHELESS, WITH ARGENTINE AND U.S. OUTLOOKS GENERALLY CORRESPONDING AND WITH PROBABLE INSTRUCTIONS TELLING HIM TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH US ON MOST, IF NOT ALL, ISSUES RAISED REFTTEL, ARGENTINA SHOULD BE A VALUABLE ALLY AT CANBERRA.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009